

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NICOSI 01912 101159Z

41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 SAJ-01

OMB-01 EB-07 OES-06 DHA-02 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 SAM-01 /112 W

----- 094296

R 101033Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3907

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

DIA WASHDC

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USNMR SHAPE BEL

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1912

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY

SUBJ: POSSIBLE TURKISH CLAIMS TO PART OF CYPRUS DMZ

1. SUMMARY. RECENT INCIDENTS IN THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE (DMZ) SOUTH OR

THE NEWLY-SETTLED VILLAGE OF AVLONA INDICATE THAT THE TURKISH  
MILITARY AND THE TFSC MAY BE TRYING TO CHANGE THE STATUS QUO AND TO  
ACHIEVE SOME USE OF THE CLAIM TO PART OF THE DMZ. UNFICYP OFFICIALS  
ARE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED THAT HIS ISSUE MAY BECOME A MAJOR  
POINT OF CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE UN AND THE TURKISH MILITARY/TFSC.  
END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NICOSI 01912 101159Z

2. IN LATE MARCH AND EARLY APRIL 1976 A CHANGE IN THE

POPULATION OF AVLONA BECAME EVIDENT. WHAT HAD BEEN A PURELY MILITARY GARRISON WAS BEING CONVERTED TO A CIVILIAN POPULATION BUT WITH MALES ALMOST ALL BEING MEN OF MILITARY AGE. AVLONA LIES ON THE TURKISH FORWARD DEFENSE LINE (FDL) AND IS THE TIP OF A SALIENT ABOUT ONE-HALF KM. SIDE AND ONE-AND-A-HALF KM. LONG LYING ASTRIDE A ROAD RUNNING SSE INTO THE GREEK FDL. IMMEDIATELY WEST OF AVLONA THE DMZ IS FIVE KM. WIDE AND CONTAINS FERTILE CEREAL LANDS AND FRUIT ORCHARDS. UNTIL MAY 1976 GREEK FARMERS, UNDER UNFICYP ESCORT, WERE ALLOWED TO CULTIVATE THE DMZ LANDS, OFTEN TO WITHIN 200 METERS OF THE TURKISH FDL. THIS ARRANGEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED WITH TURKISH MAINLAND MILITARY CONCURRENCE IN LATE 1974. IN EXCHANGE FOR THIS AGREEMENT, TURKS WERE ALLOWED TO MAKE CERTAIN CHANGES THEY SOUGHT IN THEIR FDL.

3. WITH THE CHANGE IN AVLONA FROM A MILITARY GARRISON TO A CIVILIAN COMMUNITY IT APPEARS THAT A WAY HAD TO BE FOUND FOR THE TURKISH "CIVILIANS" TO EARN A LIVELIHOOD. ONE OF THE MAIN PROBLEMS WAS WATER. THE WELLS OR BORE HOLES SUPPLYING AVLONA WITH WATER ARE IN THE DMZ. IN APRIL-MAY 1976 ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE WITH UNFICYP TO PUT THE PUMPS BACK INTO OPERATION TO PROVIDE AVLONA AND ENVIRONS WITH WATER. THIS ARRANGEMENT CONTINUED TODAY. THE NEXT ISSUE WAS TO GET ARABLE LAND FOR THE TURKISH SETTLERS. THE TURKISH MILITARY IN THE AREA BEGAN TO IMPEDE ACCESS OF GREEK CYPRIOT FARMERS INTO THE DMZ IN MAY 1976. THIS HARASSMENT REACHED A PEAK IN JUNE WITH INCIDENTS INVOLVING BEATINGS OF GREEK CYPRIOT FARMERS, AUSTRALIAN CIVIL POLICE (AUSTCIVPOL) WHO WERE ASSISTING SOLDIERS OF THE BRITISH CONTINGENT IN SECTOR 2, AND A MAINLAND TURKISH SOLDIER WHO TRIED TO ASSIST THE AUSTCIVPOL. THESE BEATINGS WERE POBWNJHN TO MINIMIZE CONFRONTATIONS UNFICYP LIMITED GREEK CYPRIOT

FARMERS TO AREAS FARTHER FROM THE TURKISH FDL. TURKISH MILITARY AUTHORITIES ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH THIS AND TOLD DAO THAT THEY EITHER WANT TO SHARE 50-50 IN THE USE OF THE DMZ OR PRECLUDE ITS USE BY EITHER SIDE.

5. IN EARLY JULY 1976 UNFICYP, SEEKING TO FIND A LEGAL SOLUTION CONSULTED WITH TFSC AUTHORITIES.  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NICOSI 01912 101159Z

TFSC OFFICIALS, WITH APPARENT BLESSING OF DENKTASH, SAID TURK CYPRIOTS OWNED LAND IN PERISTERONA (ANOTHER VILLAGE NEAR THE DMZ) AND THEY (TFSC) WANTED A TRADE-OFF OF THE TURK CYPRIOT-OWNED LAND THERE FOR COMPARABLE AMOUNTS BORDERING ON AVLONA. UNFICYP OFFICIALS TOOK THIS PROPOSAL TO GOC MINISTER OF INTERIOR VENIAMIN WHO SUMMARILY TURNED IT DOWN, SAYING HE WOULD RATHER THAT GREEK CYPRIOT FARMERS BE BARRED TOTALLY FROM THE DMZ AND THE LAND LIE

FALLOW THAN GIVE THE TURKS ANY PART OF IT.

6. THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN EXACERBATED BY TWO MAJOR PRAIRIE FIRES IN THE AVLONA-ASTROMERITIS AREA WEEKEND OF 1-4 JULY WHICH APPEAR TO HAVE STARTED IN THE TURKISH-CONTROLLED ZONE. IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER THE FIRES WERE STARTED ACCIDENTALLY OR DELIBERATELY. GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS WAS QUICK TO PLACE BLAME ON TURKS AND ACCUSED THEM OF DELIBERATELY DESTROYING CROPS AND ORCHARDS.

7. SITUATION IN AVLONA REMAINS TENSE WITH UNFICYP TOP LEADERSHIP SPENDING LARGE AMOUNT OF TIME TRYING TO FIND A SOLUTION. UNFICYP FORCE COMMANDER LT. GEN. PREM CHAND HAS ALSO BEEN IN TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR STRESSING (A) SERIOUSNESS OF SITUATION AND IMPLICATIONS OF TURKISH TACTIC IN AVLONA FOR ENTIRE DMZ AND (B) HIS POSITION WITH TURKS THAT ANY CHANGE IN ARRANGEMENTS IN FORCE FOR PAST YEAR AND A HALF WOULD ENTAIL FUNDAMENTAL POLICY AND THUS HAVE TO BE TAKEN UP BY TURKS WITH SYG IN NEW YORK.

8. COMMENT: THESE EVENTS SEEM TO REGISTER A MARKED CHANGE IN TURKISH MILITARY AND TFSC CIVILIAN POLICY:

A. IT NOW APPEARS THAT THE INCIDENT HAS CAUSED SENIOR TURKISH MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO RECONSIDER THE QUESTION OF THE ECONOMIC USE OF THE DMZ AND THAT THE RESULT OF THIS WILL BE A HARDER TURKISH LINE. THE FORMAL TURKISH POSITION IS THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO ACTIVITY IN THE DMZ; THAT ONLY UNITED NATIONS PERSONNEL SHOULD HAVE ACCESS. WE NOTE THAT THE TURKS ALWAYS CALL THE AREA THE "CONFRONTATION ZONE", INDICATING THAT THEY BELIEVE THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE AREA HAS NOT BEEN DECIDED AND MAINTAINING A POSSIBLE CLAIM TO PART OF THE ZONE IN THE EVENT OF POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NICOSI 01912 101159Z

THE TURKS NOW SEEM TO BE READY TO TAKE SOME KIND OF ACTION TO BACK UP THIS POSITION. THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO MOVE TO A SECOND, MORE PRAGMATIC LEVEL WHICH WOULD BE THAT THE DMZ COULD BE OPEN TO ECONOMIC ACTIVITY BY BOTH SIDES BUT NOT BY ONE, I.E. THE GREEKS. THEY HAVE MADE THESE POSITIONS CLEAR TO UNITED NATIONS OFFICIALS WITH STRONG INDICATIONS THAT ACTION WILL BE TAKEN TO ENFORCE THEIR VIEWS.

B. WHILE THE TURKISH SIDE WILL ATTEMPT TO DOCUMENT THEIR POLICY AS HAVING BEEN CONSISTENT SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DMZ, THEY ARE IN FACT CALLING FOR A BASIC CHANGE IN AGREED LOCAL PRACTICES. WE FEAR THAT THE GREEK CYPRIOTS WILL FIND IN THIS NEW SITUATION A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PROPAGANDA WEAPON TO CLAIM THAT THE TURKS ARE ACTUALLY SEEKING AN INCREASE OF APPROXIMATELY 1.5 PERCENT IN THEIR AREA (FROM 35.9

PERCENT TO 37.4 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL). NEEDLESS TO SAY, ANY  
APPEARANCE OF A TURKISH ATTEMPT TO CHANGE THE STATUS QUO  
TO THE FURTHER DETRIMENT OF GREEK CYPRIOTS WOULD COMPLI-  
CATE OUR EFFORTS TO SECURE CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF DCA.  
END COMMENT.

CRAWFORD

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE AS RECEIVED.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DMZ, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, POPULATION MOVEMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976NICOSI01912  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760266-1239  
**From:** NICOSIA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760771/aaaackdj.tel  
**Line Count:** 177  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POSSIBLE TURKISH CLAIMS TO PART OF CYPRUS DMZ  
**TAGS:** PFOR, CY  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006